

ET-EMR Project Office

Progress report 2026 Q2

Project Office Directorate
Version 1.0

2 September 2026



Management Summary

Feasibility studies

In the first set of drillings good quality rock has been encountered, which allows current studies to be performed more localised and with higher detail. The second drilling campaign focusses on further research towards an optimal trajectory (from a feasibility perspective) to integrate the triangle layout in the EMR. In 2026 Q2 the last drillings are being executed in Asse and Hoof. The drilling in Asse has been finished. Because of a technical setback with cementing, the preparing of the borehole for installing a sensor is ongoing. The drilling in Hoof has been finished with success. The installation of a sensor in Hoof is in preparation. The sensor in Beusdael has been installed with success.

On Facility Infrastructure; the assessment phase has been finalized. The concept design phase started in 2026 Q2. The ETO detector layout is further being analysed and will be translated in the ET-EMR design. The Project Office is also in close contact with ETO to scrutinize the requirements and optimize the infrastructure designing and costing.

Great progress has been made around the development of the Montzen site as a potential logistics hub. On 8 June, the Einstein Telescope Project Office received a letter of support from SNCB/NMBS and Infrabel, both of which support the use of the Montzen rail site for the underground telescope. The downstream multimodal handling of materials and goods show opportunities in Chertal and Visé (Trilogiport). And the Dolhain quarry offers more than enough space to create a facility for the storage and transshipment of materials on the southern side of the triangle as well.

Preparations on the Bidbook

The Project Office presented the framework proposal for the preparations of the Bidbook to the ET-EMR Task Force meeting of 28 January 2025. The Task Force – in their meeting of 1 April 2026 - approved the ET EMR Bidbook project description. The Project Office took up the preparations of drafting the building blocks for the Bidbook. Also agreements were made with regard to the reviewing in 2026 Q3. Preparations on the impact study and business case study are ongoing.

Project Office organisation and funding

The Task Force – in their meeting of 1 April 2026 - endorsed the updates to the governance & organisational set-up. The Task Force also approved to appoint Anne Ubbels as General Manager in the Project Office Directorate from 14 April onward. The General Manager was requested by the Task Force to work out a proposal for the Project Office beyond 1.1.2027.

The overall anticipated 'in-kind' and 'in-cash' contributions, including the risk budget, is expected to cover the budget need for the feasibility studies and preparations of the Bidbook.

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